Library of Congress

INFORMATION BULLETIN

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1993 in Review

Library of Congress

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Vol. 53, No. 2
January 24, 1994

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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On the Cover: 100 Million and Still Counting: On April 13, 1993, the Library acquired its 100 millionth item—a collection of watercolors by John Rubens Smith. April 13 also marked the 250th birthday of one of the Library's founders—Thomas Jefferson. Joining in the unveiling of one of the collection's 700 paintings in the Jefferson Building's Great Hall were (from left) Dr. Billington, Madison Council Chairman John Kluge and Rep. Vic Fazio (D-Calif.). *Photo by Jim Higgins*

Cover Story: In spite of fiscal belt-tightening, 1993 was a year of many successes for the Library as it strove to do more with less. The year in review. 19

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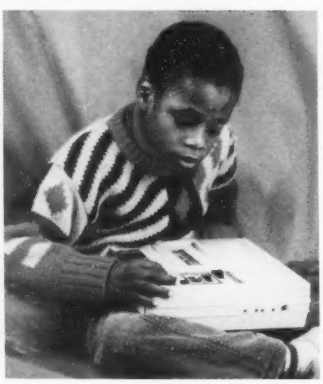
Children's Book Week: A Canadian book critic came to the Children's Literature Center celebration to discuss the current state of books for young people. 33



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Electronic Access to Information: During 1993 the Library took significant steps to move itself into the 21st century. On July 14 Dr. Billington, Vice President Gore and other leading figures from government, the private sector, libraries and academia met at LC for an Electronic Data Conference. *Photo by Jim Higgins*

Progress Under Pressure:

LC Makes Major Gains Despite Financial Woes

In spite of severe budget constraints and other difficulties, the Library made major gains on several key fronts in 1993 as it continued to ready itself for the 21st century.

"Looking back," said Suzanne Thorin, LC chief of staff, "we achieved some real breakthroughs, thanks to extra effort and smart work by the staff, some crucial help from Congress, the Library's supporters, new technology and the fruition of projects begun several years ago. We have our priorities in order, and it is beginning to pay off."

To the general public, the Library's unprecedented exhibits—notably the Vatican Library treasures and the Dead Sea Scrolls—were the headline-grabbers, reinforced by publications, television coverage and on-line access via Internet and America Online.

Scholars, librarians and students around the world were no less impressed by their new access to the Library's vast bibliographic data base (LC's "electronic card catalog") after it came on-line via Internet last summer.

Congressional leaders were on hand as Librarian of Congress James H. Billington accepted the Library's 100 millionth item—a series of rare early 19th century watercolors by John Rubens Smith of America's cities and landscapes, purchased with the help of the Madison Council, the Library's private sector support group.

Librarians across the country noted LC's successful campaign to reduce its backlog of uncataloged items (mostly in nonbook formats); the Library reached its 1993 goal three months ahead of schedule, having processed 12.2 million items since March 1990.

The Library's managers were pleased by congressional approval of the acquisition of 100 acres of land at Fort Meade, Md.—for use as the site of a long-planned secondary storage facility housing LC's expected growth in its collections through 2050.

"These were the most publicized achievements," said Ms. Thorin. "But we also accomplished a lot of important, but less glamorous, work during 1993. The staff—and the Congress—should be proud of what was done in all categories. We're getting more efficient. Under our strategic plan, we're fixing old problems and testing new technology. We've got momentum now. If this momentum isn't halted by new budget cuts, we can continue making significant progress in service to both Congress and the country into the 21st century. Our record in 1993 shows what we can do."

The Library's gains came despite major difficulties: a growing budget squeeze, a lengthy hiring freeze while a new hiring process was established, and work interruptions and space constraints caused by the renovation of the Jefferson and Adams buildings. Nothing was easy.

The details:

☐ **The Vatican Library Exhibition.** The first of a planned series of exhibitions at the Library featuring the great libraries of the world was on view from Jan. 6 through April 30. The spectacular exhibition, "Rome Reborn: The Vatican Library and Renaissance Culture," was made possible by $2.2 million in private gifts. Most of these treasures had never before left Rome, and many of them had never been publicly exhibited, even in Rome.

Viewed by a record 230,000 people, the exhibition featured rare books, manuscripts and maps from the Renaissance period. A 10-week public lecture series and a Renaissance music conference for music scholars accompanied the exhibition. No event in recent Library history drew more attention from the news media and the public.

The exhibition set the stage for the reopening of the newly renovated Great Hall and Southwest Curtain and Pavilion of the Jefferson Building and provided innovations for future Library endeavors. Mrs. Charles W. Engelhard provided funding for fabrication of permanent display cases for special exhibits in the Jefferson Building. The display cases were first used for "Rome Reborn." In addition, for the first time at the Library, exhibition visitors had the option of renting an audio guided tour of an exhibition.

Unprecedented Exhibitions: "Rome Reborn," an exhibition of treasures from the Vatican Library, brought to America many items that had never before been on display, not even in Rome. Margaret Brown of the Preservation Directorate used a light meter to make sure this rare print was not harmed by overexposure during exhibition. *Photo by Jim Higgins*

☐ **Dead Sea Scrolls.** Of great interest to the news media and to researchers, the exhibition "Scrolls from the Dead Sea: The Ancient Library of Qumran and Modern Scholarship" also drew sizable crowds of visitors – more than 140,000 from April 29 to Aug. 1. The privately supported exhibition included 12 scroll fragments found near the Dead Sea by shepherds and included documents written around the time and locale in which Rabbinic Judaism and Christianity were born. Roughly half the items on display were from the Library's collections.

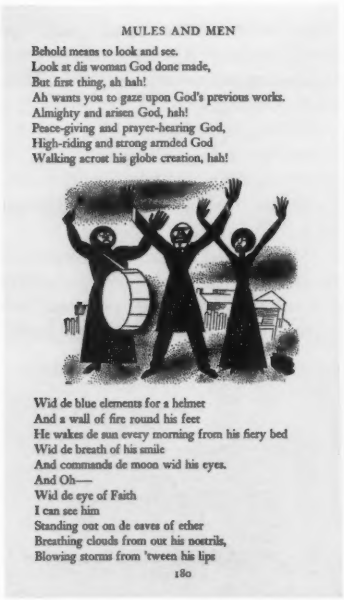
☐ **Bringing the Collections to the Public.** The Library's collections were shared with hundreds of thousands of Americans through other local exhibitions, traveling exhibitions (in a dozen cities) and major publications. Most notably, the Library also became the first U.S. institution to make its major exhibitions available remotely through electronic on-line access.

Other exhibitions included: "Landsat: Monitoring Earth's Environment" (a map/photo display); "I Do Solemnly Swear" (linked to the 1993 inauguration); "An Uplifting Tradition: Graduates of Historically Black Colleges" (a display celebrating the role of black colleges in the development of American scholarship); "The Articulate Traveler: Johann Georg Kohl" (the German map maker of America); "Language of the Land: Journeys into Literary America" (featuring writers of each state); and "Old Ties, New Attachments: Italian American Folklife in the West," which, in addition to being on view at LC in Washington, opened in Santa Clara, Calif., and traveled to Los Angeles and Reno, Nev.

The Publishing Office produced 30 books and other items, including Volumes 20 and 21 of *Letters to Delegates of Congress, 1774–1789, Scrolls from the Dead Sea* and *Rome Reborn.*

And, for the first time, millions of people around the world had new accessibility via Internet and America Online to the larger Library exhibits – including the 1992 Soviet archives and the 1993 displays of the Columbus quincentenary, Dead Sea Scrolls and Vatican Library. More than 30,000 people "tuned in" to the Scrolls exhibit on America Online, and more than 150,000 to the Vatican Library.

Remote Access: For those who could not make it to Washington to see the Vatican exhibition in person, many of the materials were digitized and made available, along with captions, via Internet and America Online. This offering has been demonstrated at the Library's courtesy booth during meetings of the American Library Association.


MULES AND MEN

Behold means to look and see.
Look at dis woman God done made,
But first thing, ah hah!
Ah wants you to gaze upon God's previous works.
Almighty and arisen God, hah!
Peace-giving and prayer-hearing God,
High-riding and strong armded God
Walking across his globe creation, hah!

Wid de blue elements for a helmet
And a wall of fire round his feet
He wakes de sun every morning from his fiery bed
Wid de breath of his smile
And commands de moon wid his eyes.
And Oh—
Wid de eye of Faith
I can see him
Standing out on de eaves of ether
Breathing clouds from out his nostrils,
Blowing storms from 'tween his lips

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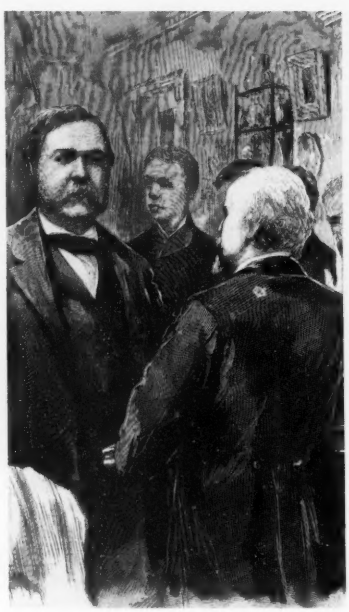
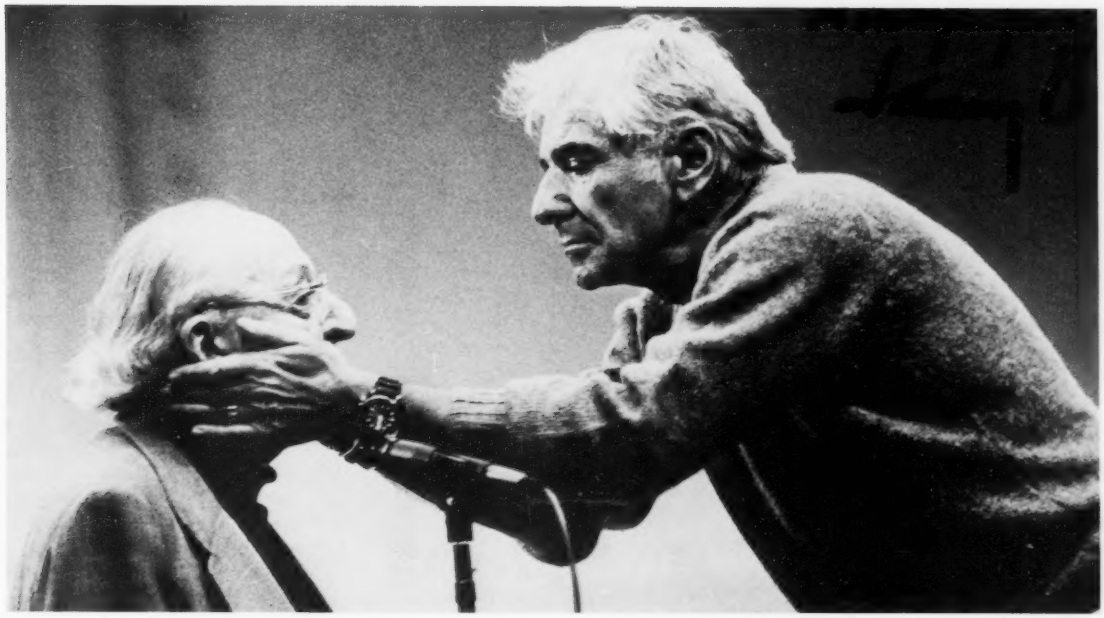


A Diversity of Exhibitions (left to right, top to bottom): "An Uplifting Tradition" honored historically black colleges. "Mules and Men" is by Zora Neale Hurston, herself a graduate of such an institution; "Old Ties, New Attachments" celebrated Italian American folklife in the West. A worker in San Pedro, Calif., unloads the catch from a vessel operated by an Italian American crew; "Artists Draw the Twenties" featured illustrations from *The Forum,* an influential magazine of the early 20th century. This drawing by Mary Cecil Allen was on view during the exhibition; "'I Do Solemnly Swear'" documented the traditions of inaugural ceremonies. Chester A. Arthur, in this woodcut, takes the oath of office, Sept. 26, 1881; "Scrolls from the Dead Sea" featured 2,000-year-old scroll fragments and other artifacts. This jar was used to store the scrolls.

☐ **Linking the Library and the World.** On-line access via Internet to the Library of Congress Information System (LOCIS) became a reality in April 1993. Internet is a vast global network of many interconnected networks with an estimated 20 million users. LOCIS files contain more than 35 million records, including cataloging information, copyright registrations and status of federal legislation. Other Library systems available on Internet provide documents and basic information about the Library's services.



Arrearage Reduction: The Library surpassed its commitment to reduce the number of unprocessed items in its collections and, thanks to innovations in cataloging and other processing operations, the staff did so three months ahead of schedule. This photo, from the Aaron Copland Collection in the Music Division, was among the 12.2 million items processed by the end of fiscal 1993.

In June the Library enhanced Internet access by implementing LC MARVEL (Machine-Assisted Realization of the Virtual Electronic Library)—a user-friendly software tool that combines the vast amounts of information available about the Library with easy access to diverse electronic resources over Internet.

☐ **Arrearage Reduction.** In March 1990 the Library made a commitment to reduce its backlog of unprocessed items by 30 percent by the end of 1993—11.3 million items. The Library surpassed this commitment, three months ahead of schedule, by reducing unprocessed items by 30.8 percent, or 12.2. million items, as of Sept. 30, 1993.

There is more to this story than just the numbers. Numerous innovations in cataloging and other processing operations have yielded substantial gains in productivity and timeliness. For example, enhanced bibliographic workstations have increased copy cataloging and, as a result, cataloger productivity. The Cataloging Directorate, recently reorganized into whole book cataloging teams to improve timeliness, has outstripped its previous three-year average of 246,000 titles cataloged by 15,000 titles.

Arrearage reduction efforts have made available to researchers unique materials, including: the Clare Boothe Luce papers, Civil War drawings by artists and journalists, Spanish Civil War posters and the Aaron Copland Collection. As it pursues arrearage goals for 1994–2000 the Library continues to implement changes in procedures and technology that will increase productivity and throughput.

☐ **Secondary Storage.** Linked to the Library's arrearage reduction project is the development of a secondary storage site to house newly processed materials and to provide for growth of the collections through the first half of the 21st century. A major milestone was passed when the Military Construction Appropriations Act of 1994 (P.L. 103–110) approved the Library's use of up to 100 acres of land at Fort Meade, Md., for long-term storage needs. Funds appropriated in fiscal 1993 will be used to build the first of several collections storage facilities on the site.

☐ **Collections Security.** The Library implemented several key aspects of its comprehensive "Plan for Enhancing Collections Security" during fiscal 1993. The installation of electronic theft detection systems at all active pedestrian exits was completed.

Antitheft "targets" were placed in 530,000 volumes in reference collections and high-risk segments of the general collections, as well as in all

newly acquired, hardbound volumes. The use of video surveillance cameras was extended to the Law and Manuscript reading rooms, and orders were placed for cameras to cover three additional reading rooms.

Thanks largely to the closed-stack policy implemented in mid-1992, the not-on-shelf rate for the general collections has dropped more than 4 percent.

☐ **Support for the 103rd Congress.** The Congressional Research Service (CRS) met the challenge of orienting 129 new members of Congress while at the same time maintaining support for all of the important issues before the legislature.

Orientation for the new members included briefings on issues related to the budget and the economy, defense and foreign affairs, and domestic policy; an introduction to CRS specialists; and courses through the Public Policy Institute on major issues facing the 103rd Congress. CRS staff wrote reports and provided consultations on many diverse issues tied to the North American Free Trade Agreement and prepared Info Packs, which were sent to more than 2,000 requesters in September 1993 alone.

Working closely with members of Congress and committees, CRS kept them informed about the complex issues inherent in various health care alternatives and analyzed the potential impact of each proposed plan. CRS analysts developed a health benefit simulation model, shared with the Congressional Budget Office, to respond to the numerous congressional requests for information on the premium costs of health benefits.

☐ **Support for the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress (JCOC).** CRS provided extensive help to the Joint Committee: Its policy director is a senior CRS specialist, and three experienced Congress specialists were also detailed to the JCOC. Moreover, CRS staff from the Government and American Law divisions provided close support on a broad range of issues.

For example, CRS undertook a major interdisciplinary and interdivisional effort to provide in-depth analyses of options for restructuring the congressional committee system. CRS staff also prepared analyses and briefing materials in preparation for the JCOC's hearings and drafted materials to be included in the JCOC report.

Reports and consultations were provided to the committee on such matters as congressional scheduling, floor procedure, committee structure, the budget process, interchamber cooperation, management, staffing compliance, ethics and conflicts of interest, communications and information technology, relations with the executive and judicial branches and public understanding of Congress.

☐ **Copyright Reform.** The Library worked closely with Congress during 1993 to accommodate legitimate concerns over fair treatment for American authors while at the same time assuring that the Library's acquisitions through copyright registration and mandatory deposit are maintained at least at their present level.

The Library established an Advisory Committee on Copyright Registration and Deposit (ACCORD), chaired jointly by Barbara Ringer, former Register of Copyrights, and Robert Wedgeworth, interim university librarian at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Recommendations developed with ACCORD's help were incorporated into proposed legislation and would provide alternative inducements to registration, improve registration and mandatory deposit systems and provide for a review of the effects of legislative changes on the collections of the Library and the registration system.

Collections Security: Due largely to the closed-stack policy implemented in mid-1992, the not-on-shelf rate for the general collections has dropped more than 4 percent. Dr. Billington explained the new procedures to (from left) Janish Anderson, Patrick Frazier and Victoria Hill of Constituent Services. *Photo by Craig Hobson*

Service to Congress: Congressional Research Service support of the 103rd Congress was kicked off Dec. 7, 1992, with a reception for new members and their spouses. President-elect Bill Clinton came to greet many of the legislators with whom he would be working. Orientation during 1993 for the 129 new members included briefings, introductions to the CRS specialists and a Public Policy Institute. *Photo by Jim Higgins*

A separate legislative proposal also eliminated the Copyright Royalty Tribunal (CRT), transferring its functions to independent ad hoc arbitration panels overseen by the Copyright Office. The Library has incorporated plans to assume this responsibility as part of the fiscal 1995 budget.

☐ **Improved Copyright Services.** Major progress was made on development of the Copyright Imaging System. Installation of all equipment was completed, and most copyright registration certificates are now produced from images of the original applications captured by the system. Integration of the new image system with the existing Copyright Office work tracking system (COINS) was completed as well. Installation of search workstations for the public and Copyright staff is expected to be completed early in fiscal 1994.

☐ **Collections Development and Important New Acquisitions.** The Library receives millions of pieces each year, from copyright deposits, from federal agencies and from purchases, gifts and exchanges. The Library took several important steps during fiscal 1993 to be more selective in its acquisitions without compromising quality – part of the Library's efforts to maintain a universal collection in a time of diminishing resources.

Notable acquisitions during fiscal 1993 include: the John Rubens Smith Collection of almost 700 watercolors documenting the American scene from 1809 to 1844 (the 100 millionth acquisition of the Library); the Italian Americans in the West collection, created by the American Folklife Center; the Women's Music Acquisition Project, a long-term effort inaugurated to acquire by purchase and copyright demand musical works composed and performed by women; and the Truckee River/ Pyramid Lake Project Collection, a photo archive dealing with environmental and social issues by photographers Robert Dawson and Peter Goin.

☐ **Preservation Improvements.** The Library took action during 1993 to improve the preservation of its vast collections by:

☐ procuring and strategically storing supplies and equipment for use in disaster situations and training staff in disaster response and recovery procedures;

Copyright Reform: The Library established the Advisory Committee on Copyright Registration and Deposit to accommodate concerns regarding copyright deposit and mandatory registration. Dr. Billington and then Register of Copyrights Ralph Oman testified before Congress March 4 regarding the Copyright Reform Act of 1993. *Photo by Yusef El-Amin*

oped guidelines to improve library services to Native Americans through a 12-member network committee.

☐ **Human Resources Efforts.** The Library implemented a new merit selection process during fiscal 1993 and put in place a plan to improve its human resources and affirmative action programs.

Major parts of the plan include: expanding the number of affirmative action interns; establishing a leadership development program; upgrading the Office of Affirmative Action and Special Programs; implementing a more effective performance appraisal system for supervisors and managers; filling critical senior management positions including a new senior adviser for diversity; and developing safeguards to ensure equity in the hiring of experts and consultants.

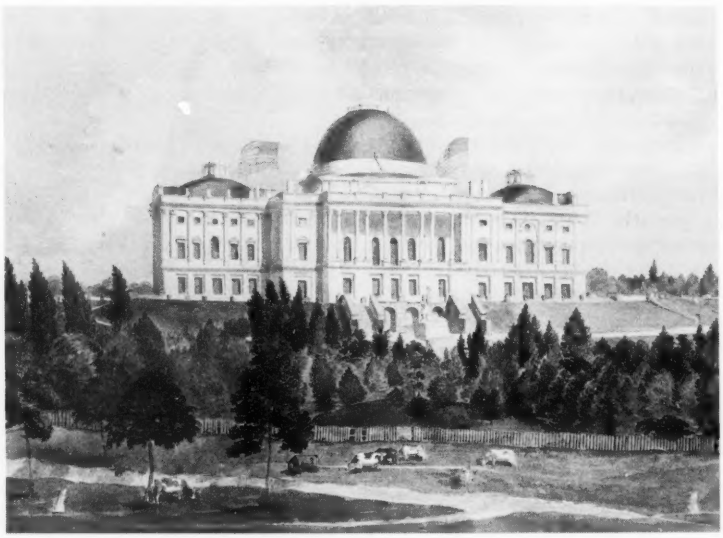
☐ **Special Facilities Center.** Sept. 20, 1993, marked the culmination of years of hard work: The Little

☐ procuring a state-of-the-art box-making machine to augment and expand its preventive preservation program for the general collections; and

☐ initiating a series of tests to evaluate deacidification processes.

☐ **Blind and Physically Handicapped Program.** The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) continued refinement of the national reading program for blind and physically handicapped persons during fiscal 1993.

In the technology area, NLS began a wide-ranging study to evaluate current technology and identify applications to NLS audio products and services. The study includes NLS staff members and participants from sister organizations (e.g., the Royal National Institute for the Blind (UK) and the Canadian National Institute for the Blind) and representatives from consumer groups. In network library service, NLS devel-



New Acquisitions: The Library's 100 millionth item was a collection of watercolors of America from 1809 to 1844 by artist John Rubens Smith. This watercolor of the U.S. Capitol is one of almost 700 paintings in the collection, purchased with the help of the Madison Council, the Library's private sector support group.

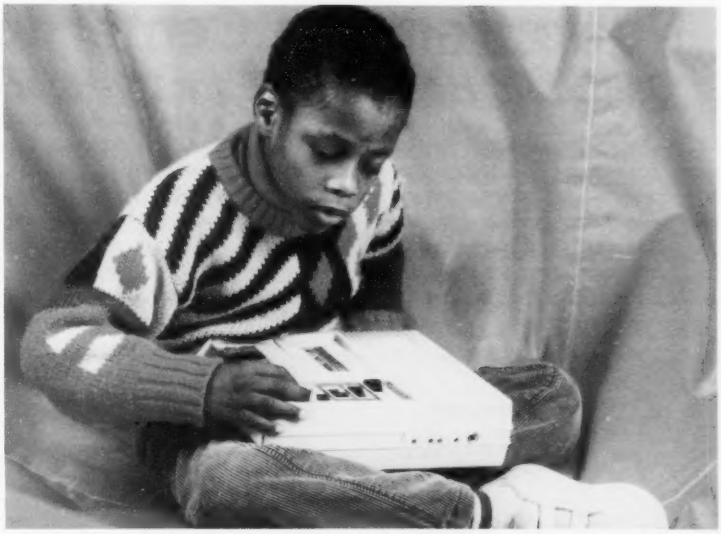
Scholars Child Development Center (LSCDC) opened its doors to a charter class of 40 children. Operated by the Library of Congress Child Care Association (LCCA), the center has a capacity of 100, ranging from infants to preschoolers, and provides child care for employees of the Library and other legislative branch offices. The center offers scholarships to offset a portion of the tuition costs for eligible families.

Following renovation, the remaining part of the Special Facilities Center will be used for training, general assembly and education programs.

☐ **Financial Management Improvement Project.** During 1993 the Library moved closer to its goal of a modern financial system that complies with the General Accounting Office (GAO) and the Treasury Department accounting and control standards that will ease the preparation of audited financial statements. On Nov. 30, 1993, the Library purchased the Federal Financial System (FFS), an off-the-shelf software package developed by American Management Systems, and is installing FFS with a planned implementation date of Oct. 1, 1994. FFS will correct problems identified in a GAO audit (requested by Dr. Billington) and will improve accountability to Congress.

☐ **Parliamentary Assistance Program.** The Congressional Research Service continued to implement the program of the House of Representatives Special Task Force on the Development of Parliamentary Institutions in Eastern Europe, chaired by Rep. Martin Frost (D-Texas).

Since April 1990 the Task Force has provided significant assistance to six Eastern European countries and the three Baltic states; the task force program has trained more than 380 members and parliamentary staff and has provided more than 920 pieces of automation equipment and 6,000 books and serials. These programs are funded outside the legislative branch appropriations process by the Agency for International Development and by private foundations. With the approval of the Joint Committee on the Library, CRS undertook, at the end of September 1993, a similar three-year program of assistance for Ukraine.



Service to Blind and Physically Handicapped Persons: The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped continued refinement of its national reading program during fiscal 1993. NLS also began a study to evaluate current technology and identify applications to NLS audio products and services.

All this activity occurred as the Library was forced by growing budget pressures to choose between trimming its on-site services and reducing its services to the nation. Dr. Billington and the LC management team chose to maintain, where they could, services to the nation. The Library, as Dr. Billington has often pointed out, must keep moving into the digital age to meet its responsibilities to gather, organize, catalog, preserve and make widely accessible its collections.

As a result, hours in low-use reading rooms were reduced as were the number of exhibits, displays and published items; foreign interlibrary loans ceased altogether and there were other slowdowns and cutbacks.

Cuts were required because the Library had to absorb some major little-understood costs: price level increases for fiscal 1993 and 1994; a mandated 4.23 percent fiscal 1994 "locality pay" increase as well as general salary reductions equivalent to 256 positions and a $2.6 million budget reduction in fiscal 1994.

Overall, the Library's funding for full-time equivalent (FTE) positions has been cut by 395 since fiscal 1992.

In terms of constant 1994 dollars, LC's budget ($331,864,000) has decreased by $14.8 million (4.3 percent) and its work force has been cut by 573 persons (12 percent) since 1980, even as its workload and its services to the nation have vastly increased, and funds for the technological transition to a digital library are badly needed.

Considering this financial reality, Library managers noted that the institution's gains in 1993 were all the more impressive, and the arguments for sustained support all the more compelling.

News from the Center for the Book:
California Hosts First Library-Head Start Workshop

Forty-four enthusiastic participants from nine Western states shared ideas for strengthening library-Head Start partnerships at a Dec. 10–11 workshop sponsored by the California Center for the Book and the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

Held at the California State Library in Sacramento, this was the first of three regional workshops administered through a joint agreement between the LC center and the Head Start Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Implemented in collaboration with the Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC), the Library-Head Start Partnership Project is designed to demonstrate in communities nationwide how libraries that serve children and Head Start programs can combine resources and work together in family literacy programs.

Exchanging ideas at the Dec. 10–11 workshop were (top, from left): Virginia Mathews and Gary Strong; and Sarah Wheaton and Chrystal Carr Jeter. . . .

"The Center for the Book is pleased to be able to play a leadership role in developing this vital partnership," said John Y. Cole, the center's director. "The purpose of the three regional workshops is to begin developing plans for operating the partnership productively and efficiently in each state. The Sacramento session was an excellent start, and we look forward to continuing the momentum through workshops this spring in Virginia and in Kansas."

California State Librarian Gary E. Strong opened the Sacramento workshop, which was led by project coordinator Virginia H. Mathews and Susan Roman, ALSC executive director. The starting point for discussion was a viewing and critique of a 40-minute video produced during the first phase of the partnership project. The video, which describes how to form a library-Head Start partnership, is accompanied by a printed guide (see LC *Information Bulletin*, Sept. 20, 1993). The content of a resource notebook, which is still being developed, was another focal point.

The Sacramento workshop brought many outstanding children's librarians and Head Start teachers and administrators together for the first time. They shared experiences about library-Head Start partnerships in different community situations, profiting in particular from the active family literacy program administered by the California State Library.

On the second day, participants broke into small groups, both by state and by topics of special interest. Many practical issues were discussed, for example, how to develop networks of leaders and resource people who are especially interested in children's issues; how Head Start programs can identify potential library partners and vice versa; how partnership projects might be funded, both now and in the future; elements needed in a memorandum of agreement; the training of volunteers and aids; obtaining parental and family involvement; and opening up communication between libraries and Head Start programs at the local, regional and national levels.

In closing the workshop, John Cole thanked the participants for their contributions and those who made the event possible, particularly Virginia Mathews; Carole Talon, family literacy specialist, California State Library; Vickie Lockhart, program coordinator for the California Center for the Book; and Anne Boni, project specialist for the LC Center for the Book.

Workshop participants were: Karen Akada, Seattle (Wash.) Human Resources Dept.; Sara Bartram, Chelan-Douglas Community Action Council, Wenatchee, Wash.; Beth Bockser, Contra Costa County (Calif.) Library; Terry Chekon, Sacramento (Calif.) Public Library; Jean Childs, Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County, Las Vegas; Susan Comrie, Head Start Family Service Center, Los Angeles County; Jane Dyer Cook, Stockton/San Joaquin County (Calif.) Public Library; Lynn Corwin, Klamath Family Head Start, Klamath Falls, Ore.; Cindy Costales, Los Angeles County Public Library; Diane Cowles, Beacon Hill Branch, Seattle Public Library; Linda Crum, Early Childhood Program, Oregon State Department of Education; Hal DeArmond, Stanislaus County Department of Education, Modesto, Calif.; Blanche Donaldson, Marin Head Start, Novato, Calif.; Bessie Condos Egan, Children and Youth Services Consultant, California State Library; Ellen Fader, Public Library Consultant, Oregon State Library; Elvia Garmon, Los Angeles County Office of Education; Deborah Jacobs, Corvallis-Benton County (Ore.) Library; Jill Jean, Seattle Public Library; Chrystal Carr Jeter, Anchorage Public Library; Norma Johnson, Sacramento Employment and Training Agency, Calif.; Siddiq Kilkenny, North Coast Children's Services, Arcata, Calif.; Hazel B. Knatt, Southern Alameda County (Calif.) Head Start; Maria Mahram, Los Angeles County Office of Education; Penny Markey, Los Angeles County Public Library; Peggy McClendon, Idaho State Library; Nancy Messineo, Long Beach (Calif.) Public Library; Maggie Molloy, Child-Parent Centers Inc., Tucson, Ariz.; Nora Jean Natke, Riverside City/County (Calif.)

. . . As were these other participants from all across the nation.

Library; Julie Odofin, Oakland (Calif.) Public Library; Betty Olstad, Child Parent Centers, Tucson; Susan Patron, Los Angeles Public Library; Susan Peterson, King County (Wash.) Library System; Linda Perkins, Berkeley (Calif.) Public Library; Beatrice Price, University of Southern California; Christine Simmons, Oakland (Calif.) Head Start; Dorothy Still Smoking, Blackfeet Tribe Head Start, Browning, Mont.; Donna Suhr, Head Start Teaching Center, Twin Falls, Idaho; Deborah Tasnadi, Arizona State Library; Gaye Walter, Montana State Library; Sarah Wheaton, Parent Child Services, Portland, Ore.; and Leona Wright, Washoe County (Nev.) Library.

☐ **"Library History Seminar IX:" A Call for Papers.** Library History Seminar IX will be held March 30–April 1, 1995, at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. The conference theme, "Philanthropy and Libraries," will be addressed by the plenary speakers and some of the presenters. As always, the seminar will also feature papers on a wide range of other topics related to library history, representing the best scholarly work in the field undertaken over the past five years.

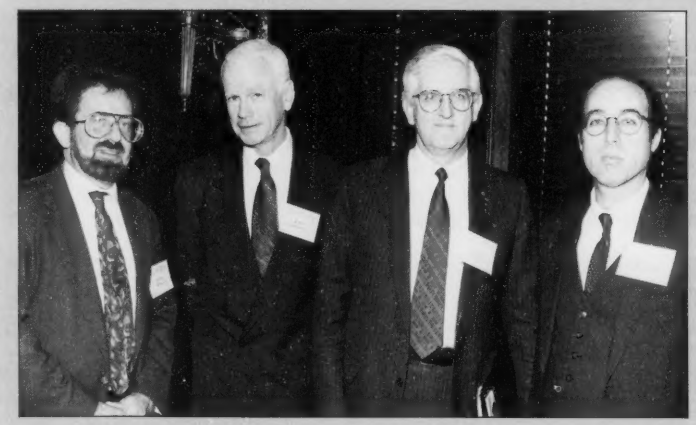
The planning committee welcomes proposals for papers dealing with any aspect of library history. All geographical areas, chronological periods, types of libraries, services, audiences and communication media are within the scope of the conference.

Potential topics include (but are not limited to) patronage in the ancient world and Renaissance; philanthropy in the 19th and 20th centuries; voluntary service of all kinds, including service by library trustees; biographical studies; institutional histories; cultural and socioeconomic environments; literacy, reading and book distribution.

Abstracts of no more than 50 words and a one-page *vita* should be sent to Gordon B. Neavill, School of Library and Information Studies, University of Alabama, Box 870252, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0252, USA; telephone (205) 348-1520; fax (205) 348-3746, BITNET GNEAVILL@UA1VM, INTERNET GNEAVILL@UAIVM.UA.EDU. The deadline is May 15, 1994.

Sponsors of Library History Seminar IX include the Library History Round Table, American Library Association; the Indiana University Center on Philanthropy; the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress; the School of Library and Information Studies, University of Alabama; and *Libraries and Culture*, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Texas at Austin.

'Decade of Brain' Looks at Alzheimer's



"The Aging Brain, Alzheimer's and New Perspectives" was the topic of the fifth Decade of the Brain symposium cosponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health and the Library.

The well-attended lectures, held in the Jefferson Building on Nov. 10, were preceded by a members-only congressional breakfast meeting at the Capitol. Among the attendees were: Rep. John J. LaFalce (D-N.Y.), meeting chairman; Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), and Rep. Jim McDermott (D-Wash.).

Sen. Pete V. Domenici (R-N.M.), Sen. Richard G. Lugar (R-Ind.) and Sen. Paul S. Sarbanes (D-Md.) also stopped in to meet the speakers.

Dr. Billington opened the symposium. Featured above at the symposium are (second from left) Frederick K. Goodwin, M.D., director, National Institute of Mental Health, who served as symposium chair with (from left): Allen D. Roses, M.D., professor and chief, Division of Neurology, Duke University Medical School, and director, Joseph & Kathleen Bryan Alzheimer's Disease Research Center; Joseph B. Martin, M.D., Ph.D., chancellor, University of California, San Francisco; Kenneth S. Kosik, M.D., associate professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School and physician, Center for Neurologic Diseases at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Among the topics discussed at the symposium was Dr. Roses' recent breakthrough work in identifying the gene for late-onset familial Alzheimer's.

National Library Service Spruces Up:
Renovation Celebrates Service and Efficiency

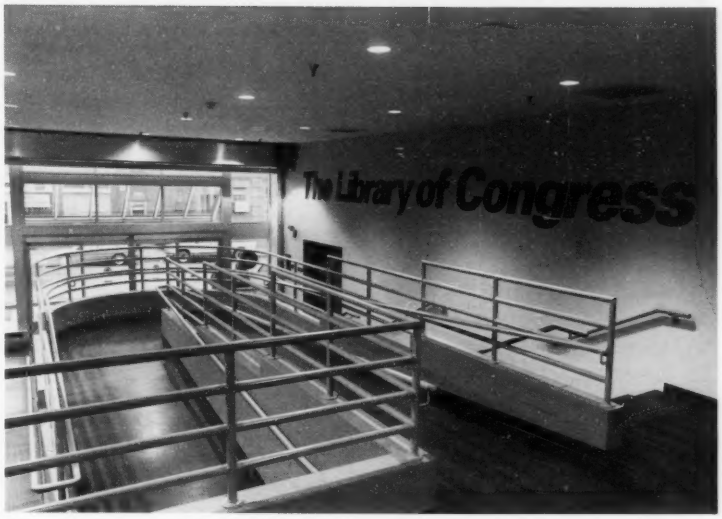
The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) celebrated the completion of its renovation with a grand opening party on Nov. 17.

Participating in the event were representatives of blind consumer organizations, Library of Congress officials, NLS staff and former staff, contractors and neighbors of the 1291 Taylor St. N.W. building. They were treated to food and tours of the work and meeting areas, with a musical background.

Kenneth Jernigan, who spoke as president of the Friends of Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped of North America, lauded the renovation for its symbolic significance, saying that it provides NLS with accommodations "commensurate with the value of services given. We view ourselves as others think and observe us," he said. "Library service is one of the most vital of all services to blind and physically handicapped people, and it should be housed and treated accordingly."

Mr. Jernigan, who is also the leader of the National Federation of the Blind—the nation's largest organization of blind individuals—affirmed support for the NLS staff, administration and director. "They are doing a first-class job," he said, "and we will not permit NLS to suffer because of economic problems. We intend to help it, to protect it, to support it and to use it—and to criticize it when necessary."

Donald Curran, LC's associate librarian for Constituent Services, pointed to the unique nature of the NLS organization, declaring, "This is how you reinvent government." He described the organization as "a group venture." Congress provides books and equipment through NLS and state and local agencies administer the services, with participation from the private sector, volunteers and consumers. Mr. Curran also noted the participation of the General Services Administration, under whose auspices the building is leased and was renovated.



Spiral ramp and a massive Library of Congress sign demonstrate service and tradition at the newly renovated offices of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

Also speaking on behalf of the Library were Suzanne Thorin, LC chief of staff, and Daniel P. Mulhollan, acting Deputy Librarian of Congress. Mr. Mulhollan, citing the volume of services provided by NLS, noted that "three-quarters of a million readers are served more than 20 million items a year."

Judith Dixon, NLS consumer relations officer, reviewed the many phases of the renovation.

Welcoming the visitors, F. Kurt Cylke, NLS director, summarized staff response to the renovation, exclaiming, "It's nearly heaven on earth!

"Our new design reflects who we are and what we do," Mr. Cylke said. "It enhances the efficiency of our work and provides an inviting and hospitable environment for our staff and our many visitors."

Not only is the new configuration, with its entrance ramp and braille signage, accessible and efficient, but the decor reflects the history and culture of the Library of Congress and of service to blind and physically handicapped readers.

"We wished to affirm our history and identity, as well as incorporate new features," explained Mr. Cylke, adding that art pieces also help bridge the physical distance between the main Library complex on Capitol Hill and NLS's Northwest Washington location.

Visitors are greeted by a Library of Congress sign in giant letters, the Library seal, art reproduced from the Library's historic Jefferson Building and photomurals showing the

Staff members celebrate completion of the NLS renovation (from left): Jane Caulton, writer-editor in the Publications and Media Section; Caroline Longmoor, head of the Collection Development Section; and Vivian Crump, assistant to the chief of the Materials Development Division.

Jefferson Building and a massive 30-by-8-foot aerial view of the city from above the Capitol.

Complementing the Library art is the unique "Book of Life" created in bronze for NLS from an original by blind sculptor Dario Malkowski.

The new Helen Keller conference room serves the director's office, with space for visits by small groups and for contractors conferences. Beside its door hang pictures of Helen Keller and a framed archival program from her funeral ceremony. Inside, pictures of NLS cooperating libraries encircle the room.

The Thomas Alva Edison conference room, named for the man whose invention made talking books possible, is large enough to accommodate orientation and training groups. Inside are a picture of Edison and framed examples of braille equivalents of many alphabets.

Two large conference rooms are named to honor Rep. Ruth Pratt and Sen. Reed Smoot (authors of the legislation that created the Library of Congress's library service for the blind) and are used for advisory group meetings and for staff meetings.

The renovation provided the recording studio with more research space, which was decorated with a photograph of John Knight, an early narrator whose bequest funded the initial construction of the complex.

Enhancing the hospitable environment are nature murals and art prints throughout the hallways and in the lunchroom. Separate work spaces are bounded by 5½-foot partitions and fitted with new, coordinated furniture and shelving. Most sections have their own conference space, a secretarial-receptionist area and private cubicles for each staff member. The Quality Assurance area has five sound booths for specialists reviewing recorded books.

The Inventory Management and Engineering sections have added space for storage and for research and experimentation, respectively. There is also storage space for archival collections of all media, the music collection and a circulating collection of recent books for use by staff and local visitors. Compact shelving is used in most storage areas.

The renovation plan was based on the design of architect Charles Moss, whom NLS hired in 1980, when renovation planning began. It also reflects findings of a staff interaction analysis carried out under the direction of Mary Jack Wintle, former assistant director. The original plans were revised to accommodate modernization, especially the proliferation of computers. The final shaping of the renovation was coordinated by Marvine Wanamaker, assistant to the director, who managed day-to-day supervision of the work and incorporated changes.

The National Library Service dates from the signing of the Pratt-Smoot Act on March 3, 1931. This law appropriated money for the production of braille books to be circulated through libraries serving as regional centers and mandated the Librarian of Congress to carry out the service.

At first called "Project, Books for the Adult Blind," the service was administered by the director of the Library's Legislative Reference Division until 1935, and from 1935 to 1940 by the chief assistant librarian.

Between 1940 and 1944, service to blind readers was under the Reference Department, moving it to the third floor of the Adams Building. In 1944, functions of the service were separated and incorporated into several different Library of Congress departments. In 1946 the functions were again consolidated, and the Division of Books for the Adult Blind, later renamed Division for the Blind, was established. It remained in the Adams Building until 1967, when the division moved to Taylor Street.

Although the idea of "renovation" had been discussed seriously since 1978, when LC announced that NLS's 1967 move was to be permanent, it was not until 1991 that actual work began.

With the completion of the renovation, library service for blind and physically handicapped people ends a long odyssey from the Library's Capitol Hill buildings to "temporary" offsite quarters on Taylor Street. It also ends an extended provisional period during which staff improvised accommodations in the open space of the former trucking company warehouse.

Children's Book Week Celebrated at LC:

Canadian Critic Looks at Today's Offerings

A noted Canadian children's book critic called for global sharing of literature for the young to promote international understanding and enrich the lives of youthful readers.

In sharing books across national boundaries, "each country gets and each country gives," Sheila A. Egoff told an audience of children's book lovers Nov. 19 at a Children's Book Week celebration at the Library. The Library's Children's Literature Center sponsors the annual event.

In her lecture at this year's celebration, Dr. Egoff provided a close and critical look at children's books today. Her subject was "Some Paradoxes to Ponder: The Puzzling and Not Entirely Welcome Development of Children's Literature Since the 1960s."

In describing some of the fine children's books published throughout the world, Dr. Egoff said she would say to authors, "Please give young people a chance to hear voices other than their own."

Although readers need books about their own time and place, literature should never be "too bland," she said. "It should take us out of ourselves."

Dr. Egoff mentioned many trends she has studied in children's literature over the years, citing in particular a modern tendency to have characters "endure things rather than do things" and a change of locale in fantasy literature. Modern fantasy, rather than taking readers to other worlds as it often did in the past, has the supernatural breaking into the real world, often with children's being given special powers, she told her audience.

"I sense children's literature has reached a plateau, a catching of breath," she said. "But move on it will."

Dr. Egoff's activities include her own writing, teaching at the School of Library, Archival and Informational Studies at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, and organizing the Pacific Rim Conference on Children's Literature, held for the fourth time last summer in Kyoto, Japan. She was introduced at the Library of Congress program by Sybille A. Jagusch, chief of the Children's Literature Center, founded in 1963 to promote excellence in literature for children. The center's reference service, publications and programs provide benefits to professionals who work in children's literature and these are passed on to young readers.

Children's Book Week originated in a 1912 effort by the Boy Scouts of America to improve reading for boys. Events were arranged during the next few years, and in 1919 the first national Children's Book Week, for both boys and girls, took place.

—Jeanne Smith

Canadian critic Sheila Egoff (right) was introduced by Sybille Jagusch during the celebration of Children's Book Week at the Children's Literature Center. *Photo by Yusef El-Amin*

Publications in Print Available for 1993

The Library of Congress has published its biennial catalog listing publications issued by the Library that are currently in print and available.

Prepared by Edward P. Cambio of the Library's Humanities and Social Sciences Division, *Publications in Print 1993* includes listings of folk and music recordings, literary recordings and video recordings, as well as printed books, pamphlets and serials.

The catalog is available free upon request to the Library of Congress, Office Systems Services, Printing and Processing Section, Washington, DC 20540–5446.

PUBLICATION

Visual Arts in Poland

The Library of Congress has published *Visual Arts in Poland: An Annotated Bibliography of Selected Holdings in the Library of Congress* by Janina Hoskins, retired Polish area specialist in the European Division.

A labor of love, the eagerly awaited bibliography is the culmination of Dr. Hoskins's long and distinguished career as a research librarian, bibliographer and acknowledged authority on Polish history and culture.

"Lady with an Ermine" by Leonardo da Vinci is the crown jewel of the Czartoryski Collections. *From* Visual Arts in Poland

Handsomely illustrated in color and black-and-white, the cloth-bound 220-page survey is organized into 11 thematic chapters describing more than 800 major works of Polish architecture, sculpture, painting, prints, decorative arts, folk art and photography. Also included is a section on noteworthy art collections in Poland. One of the magnificent full-color reproductions in the book is the Czartoryski Collections' crown jewel, "Lady with an Ermine" by Leonardo da Vinci.

The works cited in *Visual Arts in Poland* constitute an important subset of the vast and varied Polish collections of the Library of Congress. Accompanying each entry is a concise annotation that provides salient facts about the publication and the times, lives and creative output of the artists involved. With the exception of Warsaw, all place names are rendered in Polish orthography, complete with diacritics. Most of the titles are in Polish or English, although key works in German, French and Italian also are included. A table of contents and comprehensive name index facilitate searching.

City Hall in Poznan, one of the most beautiful buildings in Poland, was partially destroyed during World War II and later rebuilt.

Visual Arts in Poland: An Annotated Bibliography of Selected Holdings in the Library of Congress (Washington: Library of Congress, 1993) is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-9328 for $28 (cite stock number 030-001-00141-5 when ordering). Telephone orders may be placed by calling (202) 783-3238 to charge copies to VISA or MasterCard.

MEETING

CNLIA Holds Semiannual Meeting

The Council of National Library and Information Associations held its semiannual meeting at the 60 East Club in New York City on Dec. 3.

A recent project—a survey of convention and conference planning by member associations—has been completed, and the results were published in the *Wilson Library Bulletin* in October 1993 under the headline "The ABCs of Conference Planning." The authors were Patricia Kuhr, editor of subject authority headings for the H.W. Wilson Co., and Wilma Jensen, recently retired executive director of the Lutheran Church Library Association, who had taken the initiative for this project and had served as an officer of CNLIA.

The program dealt with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Laura Swain, an attorney with Debevoise & Plimpton, discussed the legal aspects of compliance. Since the act went into effect only recently, there are still many uncertainties about the degree of liability for various aspects of compliance. As a practical matter, employers must make good faith efforts not to discriminate against employees with disabilities. Places open to the public should provide access to persons with various disabilities, modifying entrances within reason.

Mario Gonzales, coordinator of the office of services for persons with disabilities at New York Public Library, stressed the importance of communication with disabled

persons to ascertain their needs. He has organized separate advisory groups of sightless, hearing-impaired and physically handicapped users to give them input into library policies, showing sensitivity to their needs.

LC's Theodore Wiener attended as councilor for the Association of Jewish Libraries.

ATLA Joins CONSER

The American Theological Library Association (ATLA) Preservation Programs has become the newest member of the CONSER (Cooperative Online Serials) Program. The association, located in Evanston, Ill., has 190 member libraries working in the field of religion.

CONSER is a cooperative program for the cataloging of serials that includes the Library of Congress and the National Library of Canada, selected university and U.S. federal libraries, abstracting/indexing services and subscription agencies, and participants in the U.S. Newspaper Program. The CONSER data base resides on the OCLC Online Union Catalog.

ATLA is joining at the associate level and will create, modify and maintain bibliographic records for serials in the CONSER data base and contribute to the technical development of CONSER through participation in the Operations Committee. ATLA's contribution will enrich the CONSER data base by providing an important resource for serials in the field of religion.

The focus of ATLA's Preservation Programs is on the preservation of older titles. Among the first contributions will be records for 300 serials published primarily from 1875 to 1950. Preservation Programs has received a three-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and has contracted with Research Publications International (RPI) to do the cataloging and filming. Records created by RPI will be contributed to the CONSER data base by staff at ATLA. In addition, serials newly added to the on-demand program and serials filmed under contract with the Mennonite Historical Library, which has a grant from NEH to film Mennonite serials, will be cataloged by the ATLA catalogers and added to the CONSER data base.

In the future, ATLA hopes to involve some of the other catalogers in the member libraries in contributing CONSER records. The catalogers, many of whom have expressed an interest in participating in CONSER, would work under the direction of and contribute records via the Preservation Programs' staff.

Judy Knop, director of Preservation Programs at ATLA, will represent the association on the CONSER Operations Committee. She said that becoming a CONSER member "will broaden our cataloging experience. And, it will be challenging and rewarding."

Poet Yevtushenko Reads at LC

Poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko spoke before an overflow crowd during readings from a new Doubleday anthology, *20th Century Russian Poetry: Silver and Steel*. Mr. Yevtushenko on Dec. 20 in the Library's Mumford Room read the poems of Blok, Gumilyov, Tsvetayeva, Akhmatova, Kharms, Mayakovsky and Pasternak. The popular poet then read some of his own works, including the new poem "Goodbye Our Red Flag." Behind Mr. Yevtushenko is his friend and translator Albert Todd, a professor at Queens College and editor of the anthology. *Photo by John Sullivan*

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